

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TUC DELEGATION TO AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL MEETING

REF: (A) LONDON 0298; (B) LONDON 13070

1. ALLEN HARGREAVES, HEAD OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, HAS INFORMED US THAT THE TUC DELEGATION, WHICH WILL BE ATTENDING THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN MIAMI (REF A), WILL BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE FOLLOWING:

1) SOUTH AFRICA - THE TUC DELEGATION WISHES TO LEARN FROM THE AFL-CIO WHAT ACTIVITIES IT IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING OR PLANNING IN SOUTH AFRICA. THIS INQUIRY IS IN THE LIGHT OF THE TUC'S OWN PROJECTED EFFORTS TO ASSIST TRADE UNIONS IN THAT COUNTRY, FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION IN OCTOBER (REF B). THE TUC'S MAIN CONCERN, ACCORDING TO HARGREAVES, IS TO AVOID DUPLICATION AND OVERLAPPING OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.

2) EUROPE - THE DELEGATION WILL DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE EUROPEAN LABOR SCENE, INCLUDING THOSE WITHIN THE ETUC AND AT THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN GENEVA ON JANUARY 19.

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3) ENERGY - IN VIEW OF THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS

AFFECTING ALL FUELS, THE TUC LEADERSHIP, ACCORDING TO HARGREAVES, IS INTERESTED IN GETTING A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING ON HOW THE AFL-CIO VIEWS ENERGY POLICY.

4) INTERNATIONAL TRADE QUESTIONS - THE TUC DELEGATION WISH TO HEAR FURTHER CONCERNING THE AFL-CIO'S CURRENT STAND ON TRADE LEGISLATION NOW BEFORE THE CONGRESS.

5) ICFTU'S INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION (ORIT) - THE TUC IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A CLEARER PICTURE OF AFL-CIO'S APPROACH TO ORIT. HARGREAVES SAID THAT WHILE THE TUC RECOGNIZES THAT LATIN AMERICA IS WITHIN THE AFL-CIO'S TRADE UNION MOVEMENT PROVINCE AND DOES NOT WISH TO DISTURB THIS RELATIONSHIP, THE TUC MAKES A LARGE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ORIT THROUGH THE ICFTU AND THEREFORE FEELS IT HAS A LEGITIMATE CONCERN IN HOW THAT ORGANIZATION FUNCTIONS. HE WAS, IN FACT, REFERRING TO THE DEPARTURE OF ARTURO JAUREGUI AS GENERAL SECRETARY. (WITH REGARD TO THE ICFTU, IN MORE GENERAL TERMS HARGREAVES SAID THAT THE TUC WILL NOT TRY TO PERSUADE THE AFL-CIO TO RETURN TO THE ICFTU AS "THIS IS A DEAD ISSUE.")

6) BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE - THE COMPOSITION OF THE TUC DELEGATION REMAINS AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT INDUSTRIAL CRISIS COULD RESULT IN CHANGES. THE MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION WHO IS LEAST KNOWN INTERNATIONALLY IS R. BOTTINI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' UNION. A TUC SOURCE CHARACTERIZED HIM AS A "CENTRIST" WHOSE UNION IS CONSIDERED "RIGHT-WING." OUR SOURCE ADDS THAT BOTTINI WAS ELECTED IN 1969 TO SUCCEED LORD COLLISON IN A CONTEST WITH THE THEN MORE RIGHT-WING ASSISTANT SECRETARY D. HODSTON, BECAUSE BOTTINI WAS CONSIDERED RELATIVELY MORE "RADICAL." BOTTINI WAS FORMERLY THE ORGANIZATION'S RESEARCH DIRECTOR BUT IS NOT CONSIDERED TO HAVE DEEP AGRICULTURAL ROOTS.

2. COMMENT: HARGREAVES WAS SOMEWHAT VAGUE ABOUT TWO OF THESE ITEMS (ENERGY AND TRADE). HE DID MAKE CLEAR HIS CONCERN THAT THE TUC GROUP MIGHT RECEIVE THE SAME KIND OF "DRESSING DOWN" ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCCURRED AT ANOTHER AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING WHEN VICTOR FEATHER (NOW LORD FEATHER) LED THE TUC DELEGATION. THERE IS NO DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE TUC GROUP WILL EXPECT TO HEAR A CRITICAL VIEW FROM THE AFL-CIO ON THE TUC'S RECENT ROLE IN EUROPEAN LABOR AFFAIRS, MOST NOTABLY ITS ROLE AT THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

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